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conical, like a narrow thimble, sometimes an inch in length, less soft and fleshy and possessed of a peculiar flavor.

Abundant on the higher mountains of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, it goes everywhere by the name of "the mountain blackberry."

ASTER PRENANTHOIDES, (Muhl.), var. LONGIFOLIUS.

Leaves thin, deep green, sharply serrate above the middle, the larger ones 5 to 8 inches in length, narrowly lanceolate, tapering into a long acumination, the contraction below the middle nearly obsolete.

This well-marked variety has been found in Northampton, Delaware and Luzerne Counties, Pennsylvania.

THOS. C. PORTER.

Botanical Notes.

The Missouri Botanic Garden. The provisions of the will of Mr. Henry Shaw, the philanthropic millionaire of St. Louis, have recently been made public, and botanists have every reason to be highly gratified with them. For the whole of his vast estate, representing a present valuation of more than $3,000,000, is left in trust for the support of the gardens which were his delight during the latter portion of his long life-time, and which will thus be supplied with an income second only to that of Kew. This must give a most powerful impetus to the study of botany and horticulture. The great income, it is stated, will probably be materially increased in the appreciation in value of real estate now lying on the outskirts of the city.

Dr. Wm. Trelease, the professor of Botany in Washington University, has been fittingly chosen as Director of this important establishment. His time must necessarily be largely occupied with administrative details, but we hope that these will not altogether interfere with further contributions from his pen towards the elucidation of critical problems in North American Botany.

Reviews of Foreign Literature.

Freie Gefässbündel in den Halmen von Olyra. In a late number of "Flora" is an article by Fritz Müller from Brazil. The author describes the joints of a certain species of *Olyra*, a grass which grows there in dense masses on the boundaries of their forests, as containing free vascular bundles stretched from one end of the joint to the other. The word free is not used here in the ordinary sense of a bundle ending free, but rather the opposite. This bundle is described as a string or thread extending through the joint and, in its perfect condition, adhering at both ends. Sometimes this string is tense, sometimes with coils and spiral windings, forming a snarl of the different threads which nearly fills the cavity. These grasses are said to reach the height of two feet and over, and the length of the joints to vary greatly. The seven lowest joints of one stem are recorded as varying from eighteen centimeters to five-tenths of a centimeter in length. They also vary in regard to the presence of the vascular bundle. No rule could be found regulating the appearance of these strings. They never occurred nearer the growing end of the stem than the fourth or fifth joint, those above these being solid; anywhere else along the stem they were liable to occur.

The upper ones are described as transparent enough to allow their structure to be determined without cutting. The bundle consists of a central annular duct enclosed by two kinds of cells, which are described as long with narrow diameter, the outer ones being thin walled and whose long diameter is about twice that of the other two dimensions.

The author is unable to give any reason for the existence of these threads, neither does he give the manner of their origin, farther than to suggest that their growth does not take place exclusively at the lower end. In conclusion he states that he has sought in vain in the joints of many other grasses for this appearance; also in two other species of this same genus with no result.

E. L. G.

Sur la présence en Anjou de l'Equisetum littorale, Kühlwein, par M. L'abbé Hy. (Bull. Soc. Bot. France, xxxvi, pp. 312-314). Although reputed to be a rare species, *Equisetum littorale,* on account of its habitual sterility, has probably been much overlooked. To distinguish it from *E. arvense* and *E. limosum* with which it ordinarily grows, the following characteristics are given: The central medullary canal is reduced to one-half the diameter of the stem, whereas, in *E limosum* the stems are largely fistulose. From *E. arvense* it may be distinguished by the first internode of the branches surpassing little if any the length of the corresponding foliage. The anatomical characters still further separate them. In *E. littorale* each fibro-vascular bundle or ridge of the stem is encased in a special endodermis, in *E. arvense* a common endodermis surrounds the exterior of the central cylinder.

If *E. littorale* is really as rare as reported its geographical distribution can only be accounted for on the ground of hybridization. Without having direct proof the author is inclined to consider it a hybrid between *E. arvense* and *E. limosum ;* its characters are absolutely intermediate. He agrees with Milde and not with Duval-Jouve in his conclusions.

E. G. B.

Diatomées Fossiles du Japon. J. Brun and J. Tempére. (Reprinted from Memoires de la Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle de Geneve. Tome xxx. No. 9.)

The volume is devoted to the calcareous earths of Sendai and Yedo, and consists of seventy-five pages of text accompanied by nine beautifully executed phototype plates embracing 135 figures. Prof. Brun, of the University of Geneva, has so long been known as a standard authority upon the Diatomaceæ, that this work will be welcomed as a valuable contribution to the literature of the subject. It is worthy of note that some of the species figured occur also in the famous Santa Monica earth. Others are found in the Atlantic City fossil deposit recently described in this journal.

C. H. K.

Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

Adonis. H. H. Rusby. (Drug. Bull. Nov. 1889, reprinted). Illustrations are given of *A. vernalis, A. autumnalis* and *A. æstivalis.*

Algarum ex insula Georgia Australi—Species et genera nova. P. F. Reinsch (Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesellsch. vi. 144-156).

New species are described in the genera *Desmarestia, Polysiphonia, Kalymenia, Gracillaria, Rhodomenia, Delessaria, Nito-*